

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 07178 021010Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, TW
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL PRESS NOTES ON VISIT OF JOSEPH KRAFT

REF: (A) TAIPEI 7029, (B) TAIPEI 7066

1. A FEW ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO WASHINGTON POST COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT HAVE APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS SINCE HIS DISCUSSION WITH FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT NATIONAL CHENGCHI UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON NOVEMBER 22.

2. CHINA NEWS AGENCY NOVEMBER 23 REPORTED KRAFT AS SAYING NORMALIZATION WAS "ON THE BACK BURNER" AND THE "U.S.-PEKING RELATIONSHIP IS STAGNANT AND TAIWAN WILL HAVE AT LEAST A TWO TO THREE-YEAR BREATHING SPELL TO IMPROVE ITS POSITION." KRAFT URGED THE ROC TO "DO SOME SERIOUS THINKING ABOUT THEIR OPTIONS DURING THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS." HE JUDGED THE U.S. PERCEPTION ON PLAYING THE "CHINA CARD" AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AS "LESS APPEALING" SINCE THE POSSIBILITY OF A RAPPROACHEMENT BETWEEN PEKING AND MOSCOW IS DIMINISHING. HE POINTED TO RELUCTANCE ON PART OF U.S. CONGRESS TO MAKE ANY RASH MOVES TOWARD NORMALIZATION AND TO THE CONFLICT

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BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND CONGRESS IN WHICH CARTER IS REGARDED BY CONGRESS AS MAKING TOO MANY CONCESSIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES.

3. THE CNA ACCOUNT ALSO QUOTED KRAFT AS SAYING THE U.S. IS NOT LIKELY TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE PRC IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS PEKING HAD TURNED DOWN AN OFFER MADE BY

SECRETARY VANCE IN AUGUST TO SET UP AN EMBASSY IN PEKING AND DOWNGRADE DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ROC TO "LIAISON OFFICE" LEVEL. KRAFT SAID THE OFFER WAS "BETTER THAN ANYTHING OFFERED BY NIXON AND FORD" BUT THAT TENG HSIAO PING'S TERMING THE OFFER A "RETREAT" WAS A "SLAP IN THE FACE FOR WASHINGTON."

4. KRAFT'S PRESENTATION REPORTEDLY INCLUDED MENTION OF THE RECALL OF HUANG CHEN, WHERE IN HE PREDICTED "I THINK THE U.S. DOES NOT EXPECT TO GET A SENIOR PERSON (LIKE HUANG) FROM PEKING." ON THE JAPANESE FORMULA KRAFT COMMENTED: " IF WE FOLLOW THE JAPANESE FORMULA, THE SECURITY CONSEQUENCES WILL BE FAR MORE SERIOUS; AND I'M SURE, IF WE DO SO, JAPAN WILL BE THE FIRST ONE TO REMIND US THAT THE FORMULA IS NOT WORKABLE ON THE U.S. PART." REGARDING U.S. PUBLIC OPINION, KRAFT NOTED "THE PUBLIC IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PEKING ANY MORE," AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HAS "NO IMMEDIATE COMPULSION" TO THINK ABOUT THE CHINA PROBLEM AS IT IS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
UNGER

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